(ii) In order to increase availability of sugar in the country, the Government has allowed sugar mills to import raw sugar under Advance Authorization Scheme up to 30 09.2009 and permitted sugar factories to sell processed raw sugar in the domestic market and fulfill export obligation on 'ton-to-ton' basis within 24 months.

(iii) The system of obtaining release orders for export of sugar under Open General Category has been re-introduced with effect from 1st January, 2009.

Shortage of fertilizers in Orissa

*8. MS. MABEL REBELLO:
SHRI B. J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State of Orissa has been facing acute shortage of fertilizers and the State Government has repeatedly written/reminded the Centre for help in the matter;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is the action plan of Union Government to provide the much needed fertilizers to the farmers of the State to save their crops?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) No, Sir. From time to time, the State Government writes to the Department of Fertilizers regarding availability of fertilizers and the Department takes prompt action to resolve the issues raised by the State Government.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The cumulative requirement, availability and sales of DAP, MOP, Complex fertilizers and Urea in the State of Orissa during the year 2008-09 (April, 2008 to January, 2009) are at Statement-I (*See* below).

Month-wise details of requirement, availability and sales of DAP, MOP, complex fertilizers and Urea in Orissa for the period April, 2008 to January 2009 are at Statement-II.

Statement-I

The cumulative requirement, availability and sales of DAP, MOP, Complex fertilizers and Urea in the State of Orissa during the year 2008-09 (April. 2008 to January, 2009)

(Figures in Lakh Metric Tonnes)

State	Product	Requirement	Availability	Sales to State agency / dealers/ stockists
Orissa	DAP	1.67	1.76	1.76
	MOP	1.15	1.24	1.18
	Complex	2.50	2.61	2.48
	Urea	4.60	4.07	3.92

Statement-II

Month-wise details of requirement, availability and sales of DAP, MOP, Complex fertilizers and Urea in Orissa from April, 08 to January, 09.

Orissa

DAP

Month	Requirement	Availability	Sales to State agency/ dealers /stockist
April-08	3000	7610	2070
May-08	5000	13000	3450
June-08	20000	37590	17600
July-08	40000	53810	45010
August-08	38000	42960	35270
September-08	14000	15050	13170
October-08	5000	11970	11600
November-08	7000	28040	27860
December-08	10000	14720	14510
January-09	25000	5920	5790
Cumulative Figures	167500	176360	176330

MOP

Month	Requirement	Availability	Sales to state agency/ dealers /stockist
April-08	1000	10680	2690
May-08	3000	9710	4320
June-08	10000	22530	16580
July-08	26000	32480	25700
August-08	25000	31960	27600
September-08	15000	20250	15570
October-08	7500	8500	8310
November-08	7500	7770	4390
December-08	7500	8830	5070
January-09	12500	14720	8600
Cumulative Figures	115000	124910	118780

COMPLEX

Month	Requirement	Availability	Sales to State agency/ dealers /stockist
1	2	3	4
April-08	3040	14220	4650
May-08	8170	26460	10430

1	2	3	4
June-08	38380	34000	18650
July-08	76780	62220	52830
August-08	44500	59550	53590
September-08	17340	22270	21090
October-08	10000	7690	7080
November-08	10000	30990	30790
December-08	15000	25620	25310
January-09	27500	37430	23820
Cumulative Figures	250700	261710	248230

UREA

Month	Requirement	Availability	Sales to State agency/ dealers /stockist
April-08	6000	71820	2220
May-08	12000	85820	7150
June-08	35000	97210	16460
July-08	82000	139210	77560
August-08	145000	149440	123760
September-08	96000	138200	110580
October-08	25000	45030	9340
November-08	15000	31790	2880
December-08	15000	39420	9710
January-09	30000	47920	33080
Cumulative Figures	460000	407570	392740

Qualification for membership of railway board

†*9. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:

SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any fixed rule/qualifications have been laid down for membership of Railway Board;

(b) whether there is any resentment among officers in this regard;

(c) whether it is causing delay in decision making process; and

(d) the status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. However, representations in regard to interpretation of these norms have been received and examined.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.